

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: 1/12/02

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Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Comments: Microsoft Settlement

Todd Benjamin

844 North Frederick Street
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January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I support the settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The antitrust case has gone on for too long, and it has drained significant resources on each side. The settlement offers an opportunity to put this mess behind us, and we need to take that opportunity.

Critics of Microsoft say that the settlement is too weak, but that is not the case. The settlement, unlike many antitrust settlements before it, has real enforcement power. Under the settlement, Microsoft will be forced to share code with its competitors. Armed with the knowledge of how Microsoft operates, other companies will be able to place their programs on the operating system, and compete with Microsoft on its own "turf." Additionally, the tenets of the settlement will be enforced by a technical review committee. This committee will monitor Microsoft full time, making sure that the company's business practices do not stray anywhere close to being anti-competitive.

The settlement strikes me as being overly big-brotherish, but if Microsoft is willing to accept these terms, then I am as well. I support the settlement, and look forward to the day when this lawsuit is no longer an issue.

Sincerely,



Todd Benjamin